HQB
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Senate To Schedule Vote on Gregory Nomination

Photo credit: NASA/Bill Ingalls

Frederick Gregory testified before the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee during his nomination hearing on July 18.

WASHINGTON — Frederick Gregory, who testified before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, was recommended by the Committee for a full Senate vote to confirm his nomination as Deputy Administrator of NASA.

As Deputy Administrator, Gregory would serve as the chief operating officer for the Agency and report directly to Administrator O'Keefe. He will be responsible for directing and managing many of the programs, as well as day-to-day operations and activities, at NASA.

Gregory, NASA's Associate Administrator for Space Flight and a decorated retired astronaut, must wait for the Senate to schedule his confirmation vote before he may assume the role of Deputy Administrator. At the time of publication, Gregory's confirmation vote had not been scheduled.

NASA: Safety Is Our Top Priority

Emphasizing that safety remains NASA's highest priority, the Space Shuttle program has suspended launch processing for the entire Shuttle fleet due to small cracks found in the liners designed to protect the Shuttles' fuel lines.

"We are responsible for assuring the safety, quality, and success of our human space flight program," Administrator Sean O'Keefe said. "First and foremost, safety is paramount."

During 21 years of Shuttle flights, NASA has suspended Shuttle launches four times for safety-related concerns. After the *Challenger* accident, the Space Shuttle did not fly for about two and a half years, while NASA waited for the solid rocket booster joints to be redesigned.

In 1990, NASA was concerned with hydrogen leaks in the aft compartment, which led to 165 days without a launch. Electrical wiring inspections kept the fleet on the ground for 149 days in 1999, after an electrical short occurred at liftoff of STS-93.

The Shuttle program manager, Ron Dittemore, said a decision about the potential repairs is expected to be announced August 2. "If it's decided the repairs are necessary, work would begin the week of August 5," Dittemore said.

The tentative flight schedule would launch either *Atlantis* or *Columbia* as soon as September 26, and *Endeavour* could follow around November 2.

"The Space Shuttle is a national resource, and it is NASA's responsibility to protect our crew . . ." said Administrator O'Keefe.

inside:

Around the Centers . . .

Ames Research Center
NASA Ames has embarked on two programs to reach out to the Hispanic community. Ames, Carnegie Mellon University, and the National Hispanic University (NHU) are sponsoring a "robotic autonomy" summer course for 30 San Francisco Bay area high school students. Students will build, program, and operate their personal, vision-based, mobile robots. Ames also is collaborating with NHU in a program to have students translate Ames news releases and other documents into Spanish.

Dryden Flight Research Center
NASA Dryden has entered into an alliance with Antelope Valley College and the California State Universities to help improve the quality of science and technical education in the Antelope Valley. The agreement provides for college faculty, staff, and student visits to NASA Dryden facilities. It also encourages students to take advantage of existing Dryden programs designed for student participation and training.

Glenn Research Center
Center Director Donald J. Campbell recently announced the appointment of several individuals to key positions at Glenn, including Robyn N. Gordon as Chief of the Office of Human Resources. Recent additions to the Senior Executive Service (SES) corps include Harry A. Cikanek to the position of Chief, Space Transportation Project Office; Olga D. Gonzalez-Sanabria, Director, Systems Management Office; and Dr. Dhanireddy R. Reddy, Chief, Turbomachinery and Propulsion Systems Division.

Goddard Space Flight Center
Floyd Stecker, an astrophysicist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, was recently awarded Goddard's annual John C. Lindsay Award for Space Science to recognize his innovative series of papers that will help scientists study galaxy evolution in a new way. Stecker's award-winning work provides a technique for scientists to measure infrared-optical-ultraviolet radiation from extragalactic space that is emitted from stars and dust in galaxies.

Jet Propulsion Laboratory
Like other NASA centers, JPL suspended plans this year for a public open house. The lab kept its welcome mat out, however, by reallocating open house resources to an enhanced public tour program this summer. Tours are offered several times a day, seven days a week. Thanks to local media coverage, visitor tours are booked a month in advance.

Johnson Space Center
The final teams for the KC-135 Student Flight Campaign were at JSC the week of July 22. Their flights culminated months of research, design, and peer review of projects. On Friday, July 26, the students were joined by JSC Director Jefferson D. Howell, Jr., NASA General Counsel Paul Pastorek, and NASA Deputy Chief of Staff Scott Pace as they conducted experiments on board the "weightless wonder." Popular singer Moby visited JSC on July 17 for a tour and visit with employees.

Kennedy Space Center
NASA's Kennedy Space Center (KSC) recently cosponsored the Ninth International Congress on Sound and Vibration at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. Center Director Roy Bridges, Jr., was a keynote speaker at the congress which drew more than 400 scientists and engineers, representing 52 countries. Many attendees visited and toured KSC.

Langley Research Center
Langley Research Center retiree Richard T. Whitcomb recently received the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Guggenheim Medal. The award recognizes notable achievement in the advancement of aeronautics. Whitcomb was honored for seminal contributions in aeronautics, including the development of the area rule, supercritical airfoil, and winglets concepts, that are the basis for modern aerodynamic design.

Marshall Space Flight Center
Students from hundreds of schools, in 43 countries, smoothed and polished approximately 1,000 mirrors to make them reflective for the Starshine 4—a space-bound satellite that will resemble a high-tech disco ball. The mirror-covered satellite is set for launch on the STS-114 mission. Starshine 4 will reflect sunlight to observers on the ground, so students participating in the educational program can study the effect of solar activity on Earth's atmosphere.

Stennis Space Center
Freddie Douglas, a project manager in the Propulsion Test Directorate at Stennis Space Center, was recently awarded a Master of Science degree in engineering and management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, MA. Douglas is a participant in NASA's Project Management Development Process Accelerating Leadership Option training program that focuses on the next generation of program and project managers.

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***HQ Bulletin* Submission Deadline**
Articles must be submitted by close of business Tuesday, August 13, to be considered for the September 2002 edition of the *HQ Bulletin*. For the publication schedule, see *www.hq.nasa.gov/hq/infocom/bullsched.htm*

Inspiring the Next Generation

Photo credit: NASA/Renee Bouchard

Having bridged the world between academia and government, I have a particular interest in our on-site intern, co-op, and fellowship programs for students. These programs tangibly help advance the scholastic progress of high school and college age students and encourage talented young men and women to consider scientific careers.

This summer nearly 3,000 young people proudly wore the NASA badge, with many experiencing their first adventure in the professional world.

We were graced by some terrific people, as evidenced by the quality of student comments during my July 23 NASA Update broadcast. Many pressed NASA to do a better job of explaining to the public how our research and exploration activities benefit ordinary Americans. I welcome that challenge.

Several students also said they really want to have careers at NASA but were unaware that NASA is hiring new employees or were frustrated by a perceived cumbersome, lengthy, and impersonal job application process. This was important feedback that NASA should take to heart. We all have a responsibility to help recruit our future workforce in ways that increase, not dampen the enthusiasm these young people have for this storied agency. Please do your part by attending career fairs, by getting the word out about job openings, and by helping to ensure that job applicants of any age are treated respectfully and without undue delay.

DC-8 Flying Laboratory Was Part of NASA Show-and-Tell at AirVenture 2002

By Frederick A. Johnsen, News Chief, Dryden Flight Research Center

Diverse aspects of NASA, ranging from a specialized DC-8 jetliner used as an airborne laboratory, to a futuristic look at space travel, converged on Oshkosh,WI, for AirVenture 2002, July 23–29. United by the marching order that NASA perform important aerospace research that would not otherwise be accomplished, several NASA centers sent delegations who were eager to show what they had been up to since last summer's Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) convention.

NASA's one-of-a-kind DC-8 from Dryden Flight Research Center is roomy enough to allow scientists to accompany their research projects aloft – something that can't be done with some smaller research vehicles. It can fly the same track as environmental monitoring satellites, enabling scientists to validate and calibrate the satellites with data gleaned from the DC-8's sensors.

The first "A" in NASA stands for Aeronautics, and the Agency is continually working on ways to advance the state of the art in everything from general aviation to uninhabited aerial vehicles (UAVs), to super-efficient and super-safe air transports of the future.

From the Marshall Space Flight Center, the futuristic Starship 2040 made a return engagement to AirVenture to tease the imagination with its premises about space travel later in this century.

In the main NASA exhibit building, a theater offered videos, slides, and live presentations. The north NASA building was filled with exhibits from individual NASA centers.

For kids, there was a tantalizing glimpse of tomorrow in the NASA exhibits. The aerospace scientists, engineers, and fliers of the future just might be the girls and boys who visited AirVenture this summer.

Photo Credit: NASA DFRC/ Frederick A. Johnsen

Zach Baublitz learned about solar-powered airplanes with the aid of an interactive working model at Dryden's display in the AirVenture 2002 NASA exhibits in Oshkosh, WI, at the end of July.

Noah Nason

Photo credit: NASA/Bill Ingalls

Nason

Title: Chief, User Services Branch and ODIN DOCOTR, Headquarters Information Technology and Communications Division

Career history: I spent 2 plus years as an end user support consultant with PricewaterhouseCoopers, 5 plus years providing technical and outsourcing services in the DC area with EDS, and 21 years in the U.S. Army in the Field Artillery. During my military career, I spent 10 years leading soldiers and 11 years on Information Technology (IT) assignments. I spent 7.5 years overseas at the Directorate of IT for the U.S. Army Europe in Heidelberg, Germany, with the First Infantry Division, and in Turkey during Desert Storm.

Family: I have been married to Suanne for 12 years. I have two children; John, 26, and Mark, 21.

Activities/hobbies: For the past 18 years, competitive running has been my favorite pastime. My wife and I successfully qualified for and completed the Boston Marathon. My other relaxation is to spend time with my wife and my children and to rescue animals, currently two giant English Mastiffs, a black Labrador, and two cats.

Goals: My aim at NASA is to improve end user IT support services by enhancing the flexibility of support, increasing customer education, and providing solutions to customer needs by eliminating roadblocks. My dream is to go up in a Space Shuttle.

NASA Invention of the Year Award Winners

Photo credit: NASA/Bill Ingalls

(l to r): In the foreground, Administrator Sean O'Keefe; Jack Mannix, Office of the General Counsel; and Dr. Michael DeBakey who accepted the NASA Commercial Invention of the Year award for his team's pioneering rotary blood pump. O'Keefe holds a model of the pump.

NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe and General Counsel Paul Pastorek presided at the NASA Invention of the Year awards ceremony at NASA Headquarters on June 25.

The Administrator presented the NASA Commercial Invention of the Year award to Dr. Michael DeBakey, a heart surgeon and Chancellor Emeritus of the Baylor College of Medicine, for his team's work in developing the NASA rotary blood pump, the world's smallest (4 oz) and most efficient ventricular assist device. The four-patent invention is designed to aid victims of congestive heart failure with a means to survive while awaiting a human heart transplant, a means to recover, and as a permanent implant. DeBakey's team is led by six current and retired NASA employees: Jim Akkerman, Dick Bozeman, Greg Aber, and Bernie Rosenbaum from Johnson; Cetin Kiris and Dochan Kwak of Ames; and Paul Svejkovsky (a Lockheed retiree), Jim Bacak (Lockheed-Martin), Bob Benkowski (MicroMed Technology), and George Van Damm (Baylor College of Medicine).

O'Keefe also presented the NASA Government Invention of the Year award to Michael Patterson, Timothy Verhey, and George Soulas from the Glenn Research Center. The team invented a hollow cathode assembly that is the primary component of the International Space Station's plasma contactor system. This mission-critical system protects the Station and its crew from the dangers associated with static electrical charges and was a key element of the ion rocket used aboard Deep Space One.

For details on the NASA Inventions of the Year, see icb.nasa.gov/invention.html

Summer Interns: The New Faces of NASA

Chanelle Cohen—Hometown: Capitol Heights, MD. Studying education policy, pre-law, University of Maryland. Code U. "I hope working at NASA will allow me to learn about science concepts and new inventions and to apply my education background to effect change.

Mark Cherry—Hometown: Annandale, VA. Studying business management, James Madison University. Code B. " I want to experience a new work environment and work at an exciting job that I will enjoy."

Nathalie Cathcart—Hometown: West Palm Beach, FL. Graduate student in science and technology policy, Columbia University. Code B. "I have always admired NASA and am excited to contribute to NASA's operation.

Jamie E. Cook—Hometown: Brookeville, MD. Studying physics and theater, Principia College. Code U. Reason for internship: "I think it would be a challenging learning and working environment, and wonderful growing experience."

Kathy Keltner—Hometown: Richmond, VA. Second year Ph.D. student, mass communications and history, Ohio University. Code I. "My research interests focus on the historical construction of science and technology in the U.S. and the role of NASA and the mass media in this construction."

Hani Jarawan—Hometown: Bethesda, MD. Senior, Walt Whitman High School. Chose a NASA internship "to gain experience and knowledge in the area of space medicine."

(I to r): Chanelle Cohen, Mark Cherry, Nathalie Cathcart, Jamie Cook, Kathy Keltner, and Hani Jarawan.*

Tiffany Fields—Hometown: Suitland, MD. Studying business administration, University of Maryland. Code R. "I want to work at NASA Headquarters, because I feel that it will give me experience that can benefit me in my future career."

Eric Stehmer—Hometown: Bowie, MD. Studying American history, University of Maryland, College Park. Code F. Working at NASA "seemed like a good opportunity to advance my studies."

Erica Jefferson—Hometown: Ft. Washington, MD. Studying communications, University of Maryland College Park. Code P. "When I received the offer to work in NASA Public Affairs, I felt it would be a wonderful opportunity to witness the Government's communications process and offer new ideas and insight."

Jessica Potter—Hometown: Atlanta, GA. Graduate student, Master's degree program in Science, Technology, and Public Policy, George Washington University. Code I.

Tamika Kinney—Hometown: Washington, DC. Studying biology and chemistry. Winston Salem State University. Code F. "Working for NASA is a learning experience every day."

(I to r): Tiffany Fields, Eric Stehmer, Erica Jefferson, Jessica Potter, and Tamika Kinney.*

Vaughan Jones—Hometown: Virginia Beach, VA. Majoring in computer science, Norfolk State University. Code AO. "Chose internship to utilize the skills I have learned and to learn new skills that can help me with future occupations."

Nicole Manning—Hometown: Laurel, MD. Studying marketing, Morgan State University, MD. Code Y. " I would like to get experience in the working community."

(I to r): Vaughan Jones and Nicole Manning.

James Marker—Hometown: Hoosick Falls, NY. Studying business administration/facilities management, Hudson Valley Community College. Code Y. "Chose internship to better understand the skills related to my educational/career goals in the field of facilities management."

Charles E. Powell, Jr.—Hometown: Memphis, TN. Studying computer engineering. Tennessee State University. Code J. "NASA Headquarters offers an excellent opportunity for a career that involves a continuous learning experience."

Akisha Campbell—Hometown: Washington, DC. Majoring in computer information systems, Florida A&M University. Code AO. "I am interested in the experiences I will have here at HQ as well as the opportunity to get a feel for various facets of the Government."

(I to r): James Marker, Charles E. Powell, Jr., and Akisha Campbell.*

*Photo credits: NASA/Renee Bouchard

Good News About Space Station 3-D

Photo credit: NASA

Newsflash . . . *Space Station 3D* was nominated for three Giant Screen Theater Association (GSTA) film awards!

Space Station 3-D has been nominated for all three GSTA film awards—best film, best cinematography, and best soundtrack. These nominations can be added to the film's growing list of achievements which include being voted best new film at the Large Format Cinema Association.

Space Station 3-D's per-screen average ranks second on *Variety's* top box office list. This puts it one place behind *Men in Black II*, and well ahead of films like *The Bourne Identity*, *Spider-Man*, *The Sum of All Fears*, and another Tom Cruise vehicle, *Minority Report*.

Space Station 3D is currently showing at the National Air and Space Museum's Lockheed Martin IMAX® Theater, until September 2, 2002.

Landsat: Our Earth as Art

This image of Iceland's West Fjords is part of the exhibit "Landsat: Our Earth as Art" which opened at the Library of Congress July 23. (The exhibition is on view from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday in the corridor outside the Geography and Map Reading Room on the B level of the Madison Building.) The exhibit, sponsored by NASA and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), celebrates the 30th anniversary of the first Landsat launch and highlights 41 Earth images chosen for their aesthetic appeal. The images, created using Landsat 7 data, are designed to introduce the general public to the Landsat Program, administered jointly by USGS and NASA. Landsat is an important scientific mission that provides data important to urban planners, farmers, emergency managers, and others. The images are also beautiful portraits of our fragile planet. For images, see **landsat.gsfc.nasa.gov/earthasart**

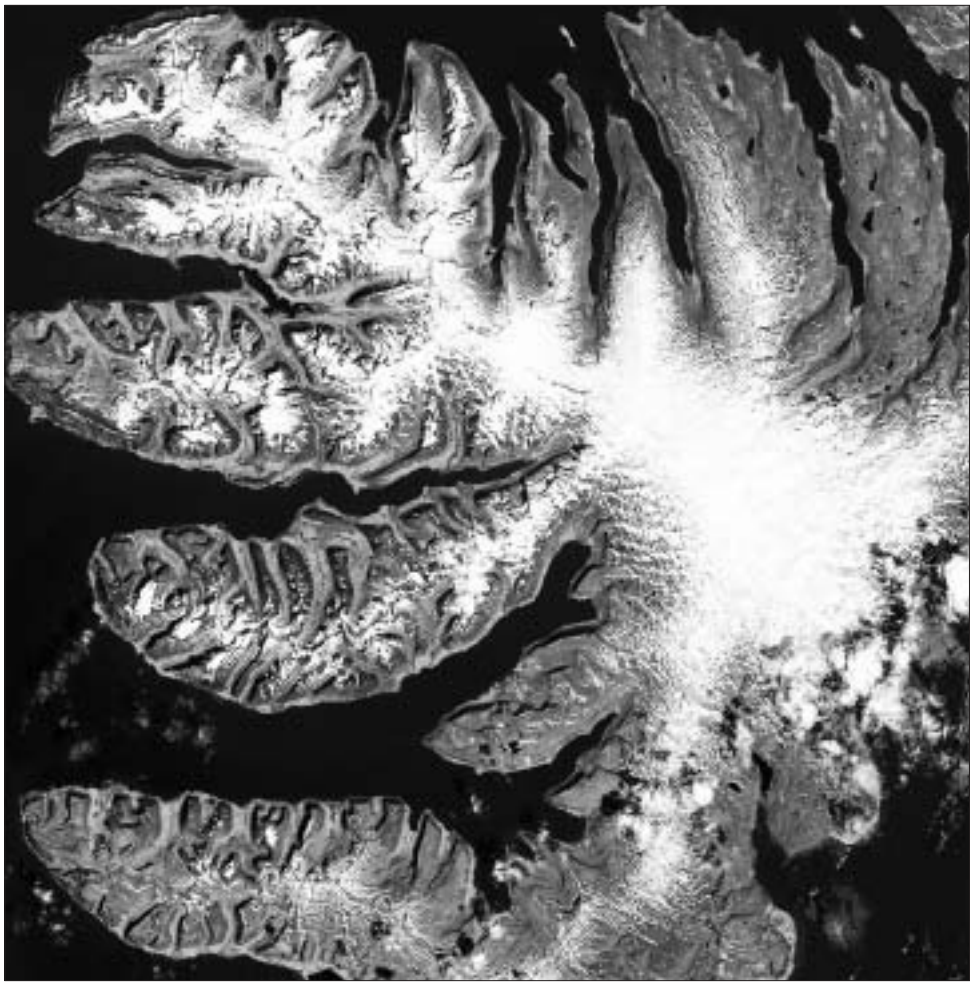

Image credit: USGS/EDC

Celebrating 30 Years of Landsat

NASA Women of Color Award Recipients

NASA is the proud employer of twelve minority women who were honored for their achievements at the second annual Women of Color Government and Defense Technology Awards Conference July 18–19, in Washington. The NASA award recipients are listed below:

National Corporate Responsibility Award:
Debra L. Johnson, Johnson Space Center.
National Student Leadership Award:
Eileen M. Saenz, Glenn Research Center.
VIP Award: Karen Hickman, Glenn Research Center.
All Star Award: Michelle Amos, Gena H. Baker, Hortense Blackwell, and Dawn Elliott, Kennedy Space Center; Barbara L. Brown, Ames Research Center; Yolanda R. Hicks, Glenn Research Center; Robbie E. Hood, Marshall Space Flight Center; and Charlene T. Malloy, Goddard Space Flight Center.
Rising Star: Stacie M. Smith, Kennedy Space Center.

Photo credit: NASA/Renee Bouchard

At the Women of Color Government and Defense Technology Awards Conference, National Corporate Responsibility award recipient Debra Johnson (second to left) is congratulated by Gena Baker (left) and Stacie Smith, Dawn Elliott, and Michelle Amos, all NASA Women of Color award winners.

The awards are sponsored by Career Communications Group, Inc., and are given in recognition of the contributions women of color are making in the traditionally male-dominated fields of government and defense.

Freedom 2 Manage Accomplishments

The Freedom to Manage task force is taking action to change rules, regulations, and procedures to create a more effective and efficient agency. The task force aggressively analyzed the issues raised by our workforce, and after focusing on those issues that require legislative relief or reform, 18 F2M legislative provisions were sent to Congress including:

- Permit IPA assignments for up to six years
- Allow NASA to provide college scholarships to U.S. citizens leading to a degree in a discipline area needed by NASA in exchange for a service requirement.
- Streamline Hiring by authorizing direct hiring for "critical needs" positions.
- Provide permanent and enhanced buyout authority to NASA; use is contingent upon OMB approval of plan;
- Authorize expanded use of early retirement for workforce restructuring, not just downsizing.

Do you know of current practices we can eliminate to help NASA set aside bureaucratic obstacles to give managers and employees more flexibility to do their jobs? To learn more about the Freedom to Manage (F2M) effort or to submit your sugges tions, visit the F2M web site at http://www.f2m.nasa.gov/

Photo credit: NASA/Bill Ingalls

Administrator Sean O'Keefe appeared before the House Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics to discuss NASA's Human Capital challenges on July 18. David Walker, Comptroller General of the United States, is shown on the left.

Events Calendar

August

1 35th Anniversary, Lunar Orbiter 5 Launch

10 10th Anniversary, TOPEX/Poseidon Launch

20 25th Anniversary, Voyager 2 Launch

21 37th Anniversary, Gemini 5 Mission

27-29 40th Anniversary, Mariner 2 Launch (Venus Flyby Mission)

September

10-11 NASA Advisory Council Meeting

Jack Murphy, 76, NASA's Assistant Administrator for Legislative Affairs, 1981-87 and Chief of External Affairs at Ames Research Center, 1987-91, died June 21 of pulmonary disease. Murphy retired from NASA in 1991. He lived in Wickensburg, AZ.

Murphy pioneered television news in Arizona, presenting the state's first television newscast on December 4, 1949, on its first television station. He was also Arizona's first news anchor, new director, and executive producer.

In 1969, Murphy developed a television network in South Vietnam for the U.S. Information Agency which resulted in a 5-station network operated by the South Vietnamese. He also served at the Agency for International Development and the Department of Interior. He is perhaps best known as Administrative Assistant to the late Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona from 1974-81.

Photo credit: NASA/Bill Ingalls

Dr. Earle K. Huckins III, 59, a top manager for the Office of Space Science died July 22 at home in Centreville, VA, of complications from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, often called ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease.

Huckins, who is remembered for his unique combination of management and engineering expertise and tremendous "people" talents, made many contributions to the Agency.

From February 1996, until November 2001, Huckins served as the Deputy Associate Administrator for Space Science responsible for the executive direction of the Hubble Space Telescope, the Chandra X-ray Telescope, Mars Pathfinder, Mars Global Surveyor, Mars Odyssey, Galileo and Cassini missions.

Huckins oversaw the successful launch of 25 space missions and the contract management of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. He resigned as deputy in November 2001 due to his health, but continued working as a special assistant.

Huckins' distinguished 40-year NASA career began in 1962 as a student trainee at Langley Research Center. At Langley, he held a number of management positions before coming to the Office of Space Station as a detailee in 1986. He joined Headquarters in 1988 as Director, Strategic Plans and Programs, Office of Space Station. He later served as Director, Space Station Engineering, Office of Space Systems Development; Chief Engineer, Office of Space Flight; and the Program Director of the Cassini Mission to Saturn.

Exchange Council News

http://www.hq.nasa.gov/exchange/

NASA Day at Six Flags: Sunday, August 18.

Book Fair: Thursday and Friday, August 22–23.

Annual Crab Feast: Thursday, August 29.

Cell Phone Day: Thursday, September 5.

Fall Golf Outing: Thursday, October 3, Andrews Air Force Base course.

For event details, visit the Exchange Council Events and Activities Web page shown above.